

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CALI 00054 031415Z

47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SCCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00

SCSE-00 OPR-02 A-01 SY-04 USIA-15 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02 SP-02 H-02

PA-02 PRS-01 OC-05 CCO-00 EUR-12 /089 W

----- 006010

P 031300Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL CALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1255

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MEDELLIN PRIORITY

UNCLAS CALI 0054

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PINS, CO

SUBJ: REPORTED KIDNAPPING OF DUTCH HONORARY CONSUL IN CALI

1. AT 21:30 HOURS FRIDAY 31 JANUARY MR. ERIC LEUPIN, HONORARY DUTCH CONSUL IN CALI, WAS ABDUCTED WHILE ON A VISIT TO SITE OF HIS COMPANY'S SAWMILL, LOCATED AT TACUEYO, CAUCA, APPROXIMATELY 50 MILES SOUTHEAST OF CALI. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS A BAND OF WELL-ARMED MEN, SOME UNIFORMED, INVADED THE CAMPMENT OF THE SAWMILL, KILLING ONE OF THE DOZEN EMPLOYEES ON THE SCENE AND MAKING OFF WITH CONSUL LEUPIN, FIVE KILOS OF DYNAMITE, AND FIVE THOUSAND PESOS CASH. PRESS SPECULATES THAT THE BAND WAS PART OF THE FUERZAS ARMADAS REVOLUCIONARIAS COLOMBIANAS (FARC), A GUERRILLA CONTINGENT LED BY ASNORALDO BETANCOURT AKA "BOLIN", KNOWN TO BE OPERATING IN THE AREA.

2. THIRD BRIGADE AUTHORITIES VISITED ON 2 FEBRUARY STATED NO RANSOM REQUEST OR OTHER DEMANDS YET RECEIVED, AND INDICATE ABDUCTION MAY BE INSIDE JOB AS LEUPIN IS KNOWN TO HAVE HAD LABOR PROBLEMS RECENTLY. MAN KILLED IN PURPORTED RAID WAS LEUPIN'S FOREMAN.

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3. LEUPIN'S WIFE, ANIKA, IS U. S. CITIZEN REGISTERED AT CONSULATE.

CONSULATE HAS OFFERED HER ANY ASSISTANCE IN CONTACTING
RELATIVES IN U. S., AND WAS INFORMED SHE HAS ALREADY TELEPHONED
PARENTS IN U. S. MRS. LEUPIN ALSO CONFIRMED NO COMMUNICATION
AS YET RECEIVED FROM ABDUCTORS.

4. U. S. GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL IN CALI HAVE BEEN ADVISED
BY CONSULATE TO AVOID UNNECESSARY TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE CITY
PENDING IDENTIFICATION OF ABDUCTORS. KERR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PRESS COMMENTS, PARAMILITARY FORCES, POLITICAL SITUATION, HONORARY CONSULAR OFFICERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CALI00054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750038-0836
From: CALI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750279/aaaacsww.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by MarshK0>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPORTED KIDNAPPING OF DUTCH HONORARY CONSUL IN CALI
TAGS: PDIP, PINS, CO, (LEUPIN, ERIC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006